

Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FEA-01 OES-06

SAM-01 SAL-01 /092 W

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R 221111Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

INFO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2942

AMEMBASSY LONDON UK

S E C R E T MANAMA 0444

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : ENRG, PFOR, PBOR, BA, QA

SUBJECT : QATAR-BAHRAIN MEDIAN LINE

REF : (A) DOHA 434, (B) LONDON 6060

1. JANUARY 15, 1975, THEODORE FEIFER OF INR/RNA, SENT US EXCERPTS OF A 1957 INR RESEARCH STUDY DEALING WITH QATAR-BAHRAIN MEDIAN LINE DISPUTE. IT CONTAINS 1948-49 CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HMG AND AMIR OF BAHRAIN IN WHICH HMG ATTEMPTS TO SET A MEDIAN LINE. DOCUMENTS REFER TO A MAP WHICH IS NOT ATTACHED TO INR STUDY AND REFERENCES TO THE MAP ARE UNFORTUNATELY MADE BY COMPASS BEARINGS RATHER THAN COORDINATES. IN THIS CORRESPONDENCE ONE ISSUE OF DISPUTE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WHETHER THE SHOALS OF DIBAL AND JARADEH OFF BAHRAIN'S SITRA ISLAND SHOULD BE USED AS A POINT OF BAHRAINI TERRITORY FROM WHICH MEDIAN LINE SHOULD BE DETERMINED. HMG SAID NO ALTHOUGH THE SHOALS THEMSELVES WERE AGREED IN THE CORRESPONDENCE TO BELONG TO BAHRAIN. (FYI: ANOTHER INTERESTING POINT OF DISPUTE WAS HMG'S CONTENTION THAT WHILE BAHRAIN

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CLEARLY HAD SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OVER HAWAR ISLAND GROUP, JINAN

ISLAND TO THE SOUTH OF HAWAR BELONGED NOT TO "HIS HIGHNESS THE AMIR OF BAHRAIN" BUT TO "HIS EXCELLENCY THE SHAIKH OF QATAR". END FYI)

2. ALONG WITH THE STUDY, INR SENT US A 1972 VERSION OF U.S. NAVY OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE MAP OF GULF MARITIME BOUNDARIES. IT INDICATES AS "POTENTIALLY DISPUTED AREA" A STRIP SOME FIVE TO TEN MILES WIDE RUNNING FROM APPROXIMATELY 26 DEGREES EIGHT MINUTES NORTH IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION TO THE IRAN-QATAR MEDIAN LINE. SITE OF PROPOSED KOCH WELL (DOHA REFTTEL) WOULD APPEAR TO FALL MIDWAY IN THIS DISPUTED STRIP.

3. ON BASIS OF LIMITED INFORMATION IN HAND WE ARE OF COURSE UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN EXACTLY HOW OR WHETHER HMG-BAHRAINI CORRESPONDENCE IN INR STUDY RELATES TO U.S.NAVY MAP'S INDICATION THAT THIS MARITIME STRIP IS A "POTENTIALLY DISPUTED AREA".

TWINAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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